



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 3, 2006 PAUAHI RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Smyth at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alvin Au, Lynne Matusow, Carl Middleton, Dolores Mollring, Karl Rhoads, Tom Smyth, Burton White, Stanford Yuen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Brawley.

GUESTS: S. Oakland, Chris Oakland, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Alan Feliciano (Safe Haven), Amy Hirano (PMCI), Lynn Waters (PMCI), Gene Yokoi (Ft. Street Mall Business Improvement District), Alden Kamauno (Kukui Plaza), Veronica Ottingar (UH), Mirna Themeh (UH student), Troy Hussey (UH), Frank Lavove, Senator Gordon Trimble; Ben Woo, Dan Keppel, John Ching (Capitol Plaza), Sgt. Thomas Reyes, Major Randy Macadangdan, Lt. Owen Harada, Officer Sagicio (HPD), Fire Fighter Kenneth Tenn (HFD-Central Station), Virginia Young, Mike Wilcox, C. J. Jackson, Anthony Martin, Collin Wong, Rick Murray (HPU Security), Representative Bev Harbin, Al Canopin (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office), Battalion Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Bill Brennan (Mayor's Office), Ed Korybski (Culture and Arts District), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff)

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: The members introduced themselves.

REPORTS AND CONCERNS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Fire Fighter Tenn reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 4 structure, 2 brush, 8 rubbish and 3 vehicle fires; 68 medical emergencies, 4 search and rescue, and 19 miscellaneous calls.
2. The Kaka'ako Station will be closed for one month for renovation work, in the interim its crews and equipment will be operating out of the Central and Kalihi Kai stations.
3. Fire Safety Tip: August is the start of a new school year. Be careful while driving near schools and be aware of students crossing the street. Take the time to teach your children how to cross the street safely and remind them to call 911 for emergencies.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Fire Fighter Tenn was thanked for attending the meeting.

Board member Yuen arrived.

CITIZENS PATROL - Mollring reported the following:

1. Thanked HPD and Weed and Seed for their participation in the patrol's walks.
2. The Patrol has seen gambling activity on the River Street Mall.
3. The Patrol has a number of new members, and the patrol is a opportunity for members to socialize and get some exercise.

Mollring was thanked for her report.

FT. STREET MALL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT – Gene YoKoi reported the sewer project has stalled by Macy's, but continues elsewhere along the mall and will be routed around the large tree near Pauahi St. and includes a segment along Hotel Street.



HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Officer Sagicio reported statistics for June included: 5 robberies, 3 burglaries, 62 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, 19 auto thefts, 15 aggravated assaults, 30 simple assaults, 210 motor vehicle collisions, 25 DUI, 9 sex assaults, 19 family offenses, 37 drug offenses, and 14 graffiti incidents.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The statistics show almost triple the number of aggravated assaults in June compared to May, no particular reason was attributed to the increase.
2. Only six of the security cameras are fully operational at this time. Repairs are being made to utility poles and a fiber optic cable that was damaged by a contractor. It is unknown when repairs will be made.
3. Problems with noise and persons driving on College Walk were noted and that increased patrols are made in this area.
4. Stores are placing merchandise on sidewalks in Chinatown, including in the Maunakea St. and Hotel St. areas, presenting a hazard to pedestrians.
5. The enforcement on the use of loading zones, particularly by the new officers, was questioned. Even vehicles with proper permits have been ticketed. Major Macadangdang noted that a meeting with police and business owners can be arranged to discuss this matter.
6. Complaints about the use of leaf blowers at Honolulu Park Place were noted. Follow up will be done.
7. New officers may be grouped together as they are on duty, as they have to be in close proximity to their training officers, and may be monitoring an area for moving violations or other problems.
8. It was suggested the new officers issue warnings instead of tickets.
9. HPD did report a street light outage problem on River Street that lasted for four or five days.

HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY – Rick Murray, HPU Security, reported the following:

1. Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for August 17, Waikiki Shell.
2. The Fall semester starts September 5.
3. An advisory has been issued to all staff and students regarding the prostitution activity on Kukui Street.

SAFE HAVEN – Alan Feleciano, from Safe Haven, reported they provide services to mentally ill and homeless persons. Currently all 25 of their beds are full and replacement beds are needed, donations would be appreciated.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Donations of clothes are also welcome.
2. Outreach workers are in the community and they try to accommodate persons living in the area first. A suggestion was made to contact possible client.
3. Services they provide to clients include shower and laundry facilities.

HONOLULU CULTURE AND ARTS DISTRICT – Ed Korybski reported there will be a street closure on October 14 for the Fashion Arts Cuisine Entertainment of Nuuanu Street Festival, an event that will include a fashion show, art and food booths, etc. to help promote the area. Nuuanu Avenue, between Chaplin Lane and Beretaina

Street, and Pauahi, between Smith and Bethel streets, will be closed, and only local traffic allowed on Hotel Street, between Bethel and Hotel streets.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Access to the ARTS at the Marks Garage will not be blocked for this event.
2. There are no plans for First Friday events to be discontinued.
3. White reported the Hawaii Theatre is opposed to the street closure as it blocks access to the Theatre in the event of an emergency. Korybski will follow up with White.
4. Matusow requested this matter be placed on the agenda for possible Board action on concerns such as the location of the stage.
5. The event is in the daytime, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
6. HPU is holding a Movie on the Mall on Fridays. The next one will be around the end of the month.

Korybski was thanked for attending the meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

REPRESENTATIVE BEV HARBIN - Representative Harbin reported following up on discussions. These include creation of a Waikiki type of prostitution free zone in the Downtown/Chinatown area raised at the July 18 Kukui Plaza meeting to discuss residents' safety following a shooting last month where one person was killed. Research was done on the law relating to the prostitution free zone and revealed to her that when the law was passed by the legislature in 2004, there were provisions to authorize creation of up to four zones by the counties' chiefs of police and city councils. She has requested the Honolulu Police Department Chief of Police and City Council to create a zone in our neighborhood. A town meeting is scheduled at the State Capitol on August 31 to discuss this matter further.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

It was noted the Board has been long aware of the prostitution problem and has worked with HPD and others in trying to do something about the problem.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble questioned plans to establish a biohazard lab in Kakaako next to the UH School of Medicine, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs offices, which is in a tsunami zone. He noted having a lab in Hawaii would be beneficial, but has questions about the location and financial problems that prevented the lab's establishment in the Waimanu Ridge area.

Honolulu Harbor's is running short of container space. The harbor is also a good site for commuter transportation alternatives from the Ewa Plain.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Prior to the Superferry, various ferry proposals have been made over the past four decades.
2. Whether or not the tax on food and medicine is ever eliminated would depend on the make up of the State legislature.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND – Senator Chun Oakland was present prior to the start of the meeting, but was unable to stay. Packets of informational materials were made available for interested persons to review.

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Bill Brennan, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following in response to questions from last month's meeting:

1. Both the Departments of Parks and Recreation, and Facility Maintenance, share maintenance responsibilities for Smith – Beretania Park, and the police department is addressing illegal drug activity in the Downtown area.
2. Pressure washing of Downtown/Chinatown sidewalks is done on a quarterly basis, spot cleaning is done as necessary, and the Clean Team is working in the area seven days a week.
3. Regarding the Mayor's Chinatown Summit, the City Office of Economic Development is developing a website that will contain presentations that were made at the summit, links to all news articles, summary of afternoon workshops and a section for updates.
4. Regarding the Kids at Work Day Care Center, the City is granting them a month-to-month lease until at such time they can move into a new location that they have identified.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The water feature at the Chinatown Gateway Park is not working. Brennan will follow up.
2. The pressure washing of the sidewalks should continue, any inconvenience to pedestrians is worth keeping the sidewalks clean.
3. The City Council has appropriated funds for designing public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area.
4. A drop-in center for the homeless should be developed in the Downtown/Chinatown area.
5. A hole in the sidewalk on Smith Street, off of Beretania Street, needs to be repaired. Brennan will follow up.
6. The City is trimming trees along Kukui Street to improve lighting conditions to help address community concerns about prostitution and related crime raised at the July 18 meeting at Kukui Plaza.
7. An update on the status of repairs to the security cameras was requested.
8. Vice Chair Matusow requested Brennan follow up on correcting information being disseminated at a City officials' meeting incorrectly reporting that she had resigned from the Board.
9. Awnings fronting some businesses have lights that supplement street lighting; however, some lights are out leaving sidewalks darkened. Follow up will be done to determine if businesses are required to maintain these lights.
10. Representative Harbin offered her assistance in helping the City work with the business community.

Brennan was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM – Al Canopin, from Councilmember Tam's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following;

1. Regarding the development of public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area, the Administration unsuccessfully sought \$880,000 in Community Development Block Grants; then Councilmember Tam requested an appropriation of \$880,000, but the Council's Budget Committee cut it to \$80,000 for this year for planning. The project is on hold at this time.

2. The renaming of the Pele Street Mini Park to honor Ceasar and Eleanor Gomes, has passed in committee and goes to the full Council for action.
3. The City Council has to approve the sale of the City's rental housing units. There are no plans to sell units at this time.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The public restrooms should be developed where they are needed; one proposal is to develop them at Kamalii Park. That idea was questioned as being at the wrong location. It was requested that Councilmember Tam's proposal for a site be provided to the Board. Canopin will follow up.

It was suggested trailer type of restrooms be provided as a temporary measure and they could be located near a proposed homeless shelter on a site near Vineyard Boulevard and River Street.

2. It was also suggested that a drop in center be developed in the Chinatown Gateway Park area, where a homeless advocate provides meals.

Canopin was thanked for attending the meeting

Chair Smyth amended the agenda to take a New Business item at this time. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS:

EMERGENCY VEHICLE SIRENS – Chair Smyth reported he has seen inconsistent use of sirens by emergency service vehicles, with lights and sirens being used, halted, then resuming as a vehicle progresses along a street in response to or from a call.

Battalion Chief Lawton reported that the Honolulu Fire Department follows the City Traffic Code and its own rules. Lights and sirens are to be used while on emergency calls, and no lights or sirens when not in an emergency mode and emergency vehicles must then follow all traffic laws. Major Macadangdang reported the Honolulu Police Department also follows the City Traffic Code and its own rules, and allows intermittent use while responding to calls that are not emergencies, but require a prompt response.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In London, ambulances for instance, do not use lights and sirens at night.
2. Lights and sirens are used on emergency calls as there is no assurance of seeing or being seen by other traffic, even though it may appear that the route is clear of traffic.
3. Intermittent use with lights and sirens only being used near intersections has been observed.
4. There is a problem with other drivers not yielding the right of way to emergency vehicles even with the use of lights and sirens.
5. Lights and sirens should continue to be used.
6. The Opticon system that overrides a traffic signal cycle turning it green in favor of an emergency vehicle with special equipment should help in emergency responses. Police vehicles though are not equipped with the equipment.
7. Switching back and forth in using and not using lights and sirens in emergency situations would be distracting to drivers.

8. The fire department is often now the first to respond to medical emergencies as the fire department has more resources and can often arrive at an emergency quicker than an ambulance. This contributes to there being more vehicles with lights and sirens responding to emergency calls.

Everyone was thanked for participating in this portion of the meeting.

The order of the agenda resumed.

REPORTS AND PUBLIC CONCERNS:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

NOISE PROBLEMS IN NUUANU AVENUE AREA – White distributed copies of a letter from a Chinatown Gateway Plaza resident complaining about noise problems in this area and copies of letters from Indigo Restaurant, State Health Department, the Mayor's Office, and Hank's Café, in response to complaints about noise.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BERETANIA STREET RESURFACING – Amy Hirano, from PMCI, a consultant on the project reported that the resurfacing project is on hold due to a contract dispute concerning the construction management portion of the overall contract; no date was available at this time on when the project will resume. She reported the following in response to questions from last month's meeting:

1. The contractor will control noise from night-time work in accordance with State Department of Health regulations. This includes no jackhammers, and no backup beepers on vehicles.
2. The contractor will control dust by watering down the area and cleaning up daily.
3. Nighttime work will be between 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m., only in the area between Alapai and Alakea streets. After 10:00 p.m. only unidentified "quiet" work can be done.
4. The project includes 51 ADA curb cut ramps.
5. The past resurfacing was a "first aid" resurfacing effort, only for the portion between Alapai and Richards streets.
6. There is no incentive clause in the contract to finish the work ahead of schedule.
7. Daytime work will be done between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The street usage permit from the Department of Transportation Services will describe the scope of the work to be done.
8. No Notice to Proceed has been issued at this time due to the contract dispute.
9. Cost of the project is \$10 million.

Hirano was thanked for attending the meeting.

KUKUI PLAZA COMMUNITY MEETING ON NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME – Alden Kamauno, from Kukui Plaza, reported the July 18 meeting included discussion on the prostitution problem on Kukui Street, a proposal to create a prostitution free zone, trimming trees on Kukui Street which are blocking street lights and holding a block party. Also encouraging residents to join neighborhood patrols and "take back the street."

Rhoads moved and Mollring second to add to the agenda, Board Action Based on Results of Kukui Plaza Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD ACTION BASED ON RESULTS OF KUKUI PLAZA MEETING – Rhoads moved and White seconded that the Board write a letter to the Chief of Police requesting action be taken to make the Downtown/Chinatown area a prostitution free zone. Discussion followed where it was noted the Chief of Police and Prosecuting Attorney could set the boundaries of the zone, noting the Weed and Seed district needs to be accommodated and that the zone cannot exceed three square miles. It was also noted that City Council action is needed on this matter. It was also noted that the Board has long sought a resolution to the prostitution problem in this area. Creation of the zone would not, by itself, solve the problem, and that prostitution is classified as a petty misdemeanor and reclassifying it as a misdemeanor would increase penalties.

The motion carried unanimously.

Matusow moved and Rhoads seconded to ask State legislators, in the next session, to change prostitution from a petty misdemeanor to a misdemeanor. Discussion followed. Representative Harbin noted she is working on revisions to prostitution and liquor laws for the next session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Matusow reported at the meeting discussion also included late night noise and traffic problems.

Rhoads moved and Matusow seconded that the Board request HPD make the Kukui Street area, a priority area for police patrols. Discussion followed. **The motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR'S CHINATOWN SUMMIT FOLLOW UP – Deferred until later in the meeting.

Chair Smyth amended the agenda to take a New Business item at this time. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

CAPTIOL PLACE CONDOMINIUM PROJECT STATUS – Dave Keppel, Ben Woo, and John Ching, consultants, reported the project on the former Block J property, includes a commercial component with the development of a car dealership and residential component with 394 residential units. The project is under construction and could be completed in spring 2008. There will be on-site security cameras, and steps will be taken so lights from the car dealership will not adversely affect the surrounding area.

The project also includes a new sewer line and will be coordinated with the resurfacing project on Beretania Street, development of a second right-turn lane from Kukui Street to Pali Highway, and a “no parking” zone during peak hours that removes three parking stalls on Kukui Street by Pali Highway.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. There are exits from the property on Kukui and Queen Emma streets.
2. Landscaping on Pali Highway side of the property will mimic landscaping on the highway median, there will be new landscaping behind the bus stop on the Beretania Street side, and there will be landscaping on the Queen Emma Street side.
3. Trash is collecting on the sidewalk by the perimeter fence behind the bus stop. Follow up will be done.
4. Entry for the car dealership will be on the Pali Highway side only, exit will be on Kukui Street.
5. It was suggested street lighting on the Kukui Street side be improved.
6. The mauka crosswalk at Kukui Street and Pali Highway, between the project and Safeway and Longs, will be removed as the additional right -turn lane makes crossing at this location hazardous. It was noted that people will continue to cross here despite the removal of the crosswalk. The City Department of Transportation Services, which is receiving jurisdiction of this section of Pali Highway from the State Department of Transportation, approved the new lane and removal of the crosswalk.

7. It was suggested that the security cameras be connected via WiFi technology rather than cables, which would make adding more cameras simpler and improve reliability.
8. Off site improvements, such as the right turn lane work, will be completed prior to 2008, possibly in 2007.

Keppel, Woo and Ching were thanked for attending the meeting.

The order of the agenda resumed.

Rhoads left the meeting at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

PACIFIC QUAY PIER 5 AND 6 PROJECT STATUS – Chair Smyth reported the Aloha Tower Development Corporation has approved the project, the formal development agreement and land lease remain to be completed. City building permits are also needed. No more public hearings have been scheduled by Aloha Tower Development Corporation and there are no hearings for City building permits. One matter to be clarified is the building height limit for this area and whether it is measured from street level or mean sea level. There is a difference of approximately several feet depending on which is used. The HECO facility is 103 feet high, the height limit is 127 feet, and the project height would be 130 feet and is not planned to exceed the height of the HECO facility.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

MAYOR'S CHINATOWN SUMMIT FOLLOW UP, CONTINUED – Chair Smyth distributed a list of 10 items proposed by the Mayor for review and discussion at next month's meeting.

CHINATOWN "BRIGHT IDEAS" GRANT PROJECTS – Chair Smyth distributed a newspaper article announcing the winners, for review and discussion at next month's meeting.

White reported the Hawaii Theatre was one of the winners for an idea, but will not be the one to implement the idea. Chair Smyth will follow up on the project champions for the winning ideas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – Chair Smyth reported that an unreviewed version of the minutes, instead of the finalized version, was distributed. Action on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHAIR'S REPORT:

STREET CLOSURES – 1) August 4, First Friday Merchant Street Festival, sponsored by Murphy's Bar and Grill. Event will close Merchant Street, between Nuuanu Avenue to Bethel Street, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m., 2) August 17, UH Pigskin Pigout, sponsored by Murphy's Bar and Grill, event will close Merchant Street, between Nuuanu Avenue to Bethel Street, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m., 3) September 2, Murphy's UH-Alabama Tailgate Block Party, event will close Merchant Street, between Nuuanu Avenue to Bethel Street, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m., 4) September 15, Aloha Festivals Friday Mele/Street Festival, event will close Bishop Street, between Beretania Street and Nimitz Highway, Merchant Street, between Bethel Street and Alakea Street, Queen Street between Alakea Street and Ft. Street Mall, Hotel Street, between Alakea Street and Bethel Street.

LIQUOR LICENSE CHANGES – None.

KUKUI PLAZA FOLLOW UP AUGUST 31 MEETING - Matusow moved and Mollring seconded to add to the agenda, "Formation of a Permitted Interaction Group to attend the Kukui Plaza Follow Up Meeting on August 31" and report back to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

KUKUI PLAZA FOLLOW UP AUGUST 31 MEETING – Discussion followed and the consensus was for Mollring, Middleton, Matusow and Rhoads to attend the meeting, with Smyth as the alternate.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: The following items were noted for inclusion on the next month's agenda:

1. Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Project Update.
2. Liquor License for the Hawaii Theatre.
3. Board newsletter.

TRANSIT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE – No report.

Yuen left the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mollring reported for the month of June the Operating Account balance was \$936.51, the Publicity Account balance was \$00.00, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$19.84; for the month of July, the Operating Account balance was \$1484.17, the Publicity Account balance was \$1440.00, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION:

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN REVISION PROJECT – Chair Smyth reported the Commission's Neighborhood Plan Committee has been reviewing the draft revisions to the Neighborhood Plan, and a completed portion should be available at the next Board meeting for review.

STATE AFFAIRS – No report.

CITY AFFAIRS – No report.

OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION – White reported the next meeting is August 16, Mayor's Conference Room, Honolulu Hale, 4:00 p.m. Topics to be covered include a State Department of Transportation report on the pedestrian safety law, and update on Transportation Improvement Projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY – No report.

WEEED AND SEED – Mollring reported the following:

1. There will be a local National Night Out meeting, August 4, Aala Park, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., with citizens patrols from around the island attending.
2. As a follow up to the July 18 Kukui Plaza meeting, there will be a community sign holding event against drugs and prostitution, August 8 and 19.

COMPLAINTS TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP – Chair Smyth reported there were no new complaints received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

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AUGUST 3, 2006
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Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant

Minutes of the meeting are subject to approval at the next meeting.